

Meyerholz School
Cupertino Union School District
August 2017

Curriculum and Schedule Information For CLIP Third Grade

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Meyerholz Back-To-School Night.

Thank you for coming tonight! We have enjoyed meeting your child and look forward to a rewarding academic year. As the year progresses, we hope your child keeps you informed of the many activities happening in the classroom. On a daily basis, we encourage you to ask your child about things that are going on in your child's daily life. Set aside some precious family time for you and your child to discuss and exchange the day's experiences and to keep in touch with your child's well being.

We believe that each child comes to school with a unique set of experiences and understanding of the world around him/her. We are committed to building on the foundation of what a student knows in order to differentiate our instruction. We also believe in raising the expectations of each child. If the challenge is there, a child will extend him/herself to the fullest of his/her potential. We feel that a child needs self-discipline to start refining time management skills in classroom work, guidance in developing work independence, strategies to strengthen academic foundations and opportunities to enhance social skills. A positive approach will be used to make learning as worthwhile and enjoyable as possible for all students. We appreciate your support and hope we can work as partners in your child's education.

The following is a brief description of what will be covered in each subject area as well as some additional information about homework, special activities, and field trips planned. We have also included a few "food for thoughts."

If you haven't already, please submit your contact information so that you'll be able to receive class updates and important reminders. Here's the link: <http://tiny.cc/clip3parents>

Third Grade Team
Ms. Chiang, Ms. Huang and Ms. Hu

Third Grade Curriculum

ENGLISH CLASS

Reading/Language Art: Students will participate daily in different types of literacy activities: independent reading, partner reading, read-aloud, reading responses and guided reading. Independent reading encourages students to select and read books at their own level. Partner reading allows students to listen and learn from each other. Guided reading will allow children to be instructed in small homogeneous groups with grade level books. The primary text used is the district adopted Houghton Mifflin's Reading California series. In addition, we will also be using supplemental articles and leveled readers (such as Raz-Kids, NewsELA) to provide students with a broad range of literature and non-fictional text.

Writing: We will cover three genres of writing: narratives, informational writing, and opinion pieces. Students will learn about the writing process as well as skills needed to become good editors and proofreaders. They will learn about **spelling** rules and patterns as well as **grammar** through writing. They will also work with peers to revise and edit their papers as well as do individual conferencing with the teachers. Students will also be learning how to access their Google drive accounts to type up and share their work.

Math: The Cupertino Union School District has adopted Go Math that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. In Grade 3, we will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.

Cursive: In third grade, students transition from printing to cursive. Students will be introduced to cursive handwriting by learning the strokes.

CHINESE CLASS

Chinese Language Arts: Students will continue to enhance their listening comprehension and oral language skills by role-playing real life scenarios, putting on plays based on literature, discussing ideas in small groups, interviewing, and using multimedia resources. For reading, students will read both fiction and nonfiction. We will also emphasize reading fluency, comprehension, and literary response and analysis. The curriculum also includes writer's workshop, poetry citations, and author's chair.

Reading Chinese Guided Reading: Chinese guided reading provides a systematic leveled reading based on text complexity. Each level has about 6 to 10 books and this reading program includes a wide range of reading levels from A to Z. The complexity of reading is more challenging in each letter level; level A is the easiest and level Z will be the most difficult.

Writing For writing, students will write different types of genres including narrative and expository. For the narrative, students will write a personal narrative and a fantasy story. For expository, students will learn how to do research to collect relevant supporting information for their writing points.

Listening / Speaking: Throughout the year, students will be provided many opportunities to develop their oral language by giving formal and informal presentations and engaging in cooperative learning activities.

Social Studies: The curriculum that we will be using is the district adopted Pearson Scotts Foresman. Students will be learning about California geography. We will also learn about our national and local governments. Students will also be studying about California Native Americans.

Science: This year, we will be covering three topics: Energy and Matter; Structures of Life; Sun, Moon, and Stars. Each unit comes with a kit, which includes an introduction of the subject matter, observations and experiments. Students will collaborate and explore these concepts through hands-on activities.

OTHER SUBJECT AREAS:

Technology: In third grade, students will learn how to use basic computer programs as well as Google applications to create presentations, reports, and written pieces. They will also be using portable devices (iPads, Chromebook-laptops) for group discussions and presentations. It is recommended that students practice typing on TypingClub.

Special Classes:

- Music
- PE
- Western Art
- CLIP Art

HOMEWORK

General Expectations:

- Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework is due on a daily basis unless otherwise specified by the teacher.
- Unfinished class work and assignments may be sent home over the weekend to be completed.
- Students are responsible for recording their homework in their agendas and turning in assignments on time.
- If homework couldn't be completed, or if your child is struggling to complete homework within the allotted time, please send a note to let us know.

English (30 minutes)

Homework will consist mostly of:

1) Math - practice pages will be assigned daily and is consistent with what is learned in class. Problems are a reinforcement of what has been taught and students should be able to solve them independently.

2) Reading (recommend **20 minutes** in addition to homework given) - students will be expected to read at home everyday. They should be reading books that are AT their independent reading level ("just right" books). These books/articles/stories may be ones from their home/school library or assigned through online reading programs (such as Raz Kids, NewsELA).

****Homework are assigned by class****

Chinese (30 minutes)

Homework will consist mostly of:

1) Reading - Read aloud Chinese texts and/or listen to audio stories (10 minutes).

2) MeiZhou 美洲華語 workbook pages for characters/phrases practice.

3) Social Studies and Science - Practice content area vocabulary via Quizlet.

4) Take-home project preparation - Oral presentations will be assigned periodically throughout the year.

5) Writing Sentences - For every lesson, students are expected to write a sentence using the learned vocabulary.

6) Dictation - Practice and memorize grade level characters. Students may be assigned to practice characters they missed on the dictations quizzes.

7) Oral Presentations- (please see Presentation Packet or Curriculum Overview packet including presentation description, expectation, schedule, and rubrics)

8) Chinese Guided Reading worksheets - use MeiZhou textbook to answer comprehension questions

Assessment / Projects

- Assessments in language arts, math, social studies, and science occur throughout each unit of study. Report cards will be scored based on a rubric system. Furthermore, we will work as a class on developing study skills and strategies.
- Projects will occur periodically. These will include oral presentations, social studies and science projects, as well as writing assignments. These will be scored using a rubric system.

Discipline and Expectations

The Meyerholz School rules and system of warnings, as started in the School Handbook, will be followed. Additionally, the students also have a set of rules to abide by. Failure to comply with the class' expectations will result in a warning. After three warnings, students will be given a "break from the Be" which is a form that will be sent to the office and home as well. If the behavior continues, we will meet individually with the student and talk about how we can stop the behavior. Failure to change the behavior will result parents being contacted and a possible office referral and/or parent-student-teacher conference.

Meyerholz School-wide Rules and Expectations

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible

We believe strongly in positive recognition, and we plan to use them daily. Our goals are to have students become intrinsically motivated to learn, help others, and wanting to learn and explore new topics on their own. Positive reinforcements that we will use include verbal praises, positive comments, "bulldog bones," free choice, and various other positive perks throughout the year.

Attendance / Absences / Leaving Early

It is important that your child attends school everyday. Students who are absent will make-up missed assignments and turn them in at the end of the week. If your child has a planned absence, please fill out an independent study contract with the school at least 2 weeks prior to the absence. If a student is to be taken out of class early for a doctor/dental or any other appointment, please make sure you go directly to the office to sign them out. Once in the office, the secretaries will contact us, and we will send your child to the office.

Home / School Communication

- **Bulldog Bulletin**
 - This is a school-wide newsletter. Please visit Meyerholz's homepage to view the current issue.
- **Thursday Folders**
 - On Thursdays, important information will be handed out in the Thursday folders. Please read and remove the papers. Please sign the back cover and return the folder on Fridays.
- **Daily Agenda**

- Students will write down their assignment on a daily basis. Please refer to their agenda books for assignments and due dates.
- **ClassDojo**
 - ClassDojo is a tool used by teachers in the classroom for behavior management. Teachers reward students with positive and negative dojos or points. All remarks given by the teacher are recorded on the student's profile and parents can sign-up on ClassDojo to see their child's progress at school. ClassDojo also serves as a messaging portal between the teachers and parents. We encourage parents to stay connected on ClassDojo---- an invitation code has been sent home along with instructions on how to register an account.

Miscellaneous

Book Orders:

- We will send Scholastic book orders home periodically along with the Thursday Folders. Please place your order online. Book orders are due on the designated date (specified by your child's English teacher). Books are expected to arrive within two weeks after we place the order.

Room Environment/Classroom Needs

- Although we do have a drinking fountain this year, students are allowed to bring water bottles into the classroom as long as they follow the rules. However, drinks other than water will not be permitted in order to avoid messy spills. They are, however, allowed to have them outside of the classroom.
- A special thanks goes out to all who have donated supplies these first few weeks of school. We really appreciate all your effort in meeting our classroom needs.

Parent Volunteers

- Each classroom needs a Room Parent and Project Cornerstone reader.
- We would also like to recruit parent(s) to help with organizing work and putting flyers in their Thursday folders. This will help maximize learning time for the students so they won't have to use "precious" time to put things in their folders.
- We would also like to recruit a parent to help with Scholastic Book orders - labeling the class code and separating the flyers. This could be done at home.
- Some volunteers are required to have a current TB Test and fingerprint clearance on file with the school office. Field trip chaperones, weekly volunteers, and any after-school instructors are required to have fingerprint clearance from the Department of Justice.
- **For more information, please check with the front office. They should be able to provide you with all the necessary forms.**

Study Tips

- Set up a quiet area for homework.
- Homework should be done at a regular time each day, free from any distractions. Also, try to provide a playtime after school and before the study time.

- Remember that schoolwork is assigned to the child and not you. Please help, but do not give the answers.
- Set a reasonable, routine bedtime.
- Provide a well-balanced diet.
- Practice being responsible with both school-work and home related activities. Check with the teacher when an assignment, school policy, or classroom policy is not clear. Communication between the school and the parent is very important.

Contacting Teachers

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns at any time.

- You can reach us directly at (408)252-7450 extension **224 for Ms. Hu, ext. 225 for Ms. Chiang, and ext. 226 for Ms. Huang.** Please note that during school hours, our phone calls will go directly to voicemail. We check for messages regularly, so please leave a message.
- You can also send us an email at:
Room 24: hu_rebecca@cusdk8.org
Room 25: chiang_li-chin@cusdk8.org
Room 26: huang_kate@cusdk8.org

We not only want the students to progress academically, but we also want them to enjoy themselves and have fun. Being confident about themselves and their work is important for their overall success both *in* and *outside* the classroom. With these thoughts in mind, we look forward to working with you in making this a successful school year.